United Nations S/2006/751

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 September 2006

Original: English

Note verbale dated 20 September 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to include herewith a letter from His Excellency Dr. Rangin Dādfar Spanta, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, addressed to the President of the Security Council, concerning the nomination of Dr. Ashraf Ghani for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations, including the curriculum vitae of Dr. Ghani (see annex).

06-52950 (E) 210906

Annex to the note verbale dated 20 September 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter from the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to nominate Dr. Ashraf Ghani, Chancellor of Kabul University and former Finance Minister of Afghanistan, for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

As the attached curriculum vitae reveals (see enclosure), he has had a distinguished national and international career that makes him ideally suited for this global responsibility. Dr. Ghani would bring to the post vision, management skills and a deep understanding of regional and global issues. He combines a rich academic background with extensive experience in development, focused on both East and South Asia and Russia. He served in Afghanistan from 2001, with direct responsibility as chief adviser to the President and Minister of Finance from 2002-2004, and since 2005 as Chancellor of Kabul University. he is also well acquainted with the United Nations, as he served as special adviser on the Bonn process on Afghanistan.

In the last two years, he has undertaken intensive work on global issues and worked in Sudan, Nepal and most recently Lebanon to help frame issues of economic, security and political transitions.

The Government of Afghanistan will be very pleased to provide more information, as needed.

(*Signed*) Dr. **Spanta**

Enclosure

Kabul University

BIOGRAPHY
DR. ASHRAF GHANI
Chancellor

Ashraf Ghani has had a distinguished global career in the academy, international institutions, and national government. He is a noted expert on effective state building, post-conflict reconstruction, and global governance. Currently Chancellor of Kabul University, he set the path for Afghanistan's recovery after September 11th as Afghanistan's celebrated finance minister between July 2002 and December 2004.

Drawing on 30 years of high-level experience, Ashraf Ghani has recently focused his attention on the intersection between security, development and political processes. He has defined a number of innovative frameworks and approaches that promote the consolidation of effective state, market and civil society institutions. He has applied these through extensive consultations and workshops with national governments and international institutions that have demonstrated concrete results in remarkably short timeframes. Two recently published articles, *Agenda for State-Building in the 21st Century* and *Agenda for Harnessing Globalization* are to be followed by the publication of a book on strategies for effective state building.

After September 11th, he joined the UN as a Special Adviser and was a key architect of the Bonn Agreement, which was one of the few peace agreements to include defined benchmarks for citizen participation and enhanced state legitimacy. On February 1st 2002 he joined the government of Afghanistan, first as the National Security and National Economic Adviser to President Karzai, and then as Minister of Finance from June 2002 to December 2004. During his tenure, he articulated a vision of development, regional cooperation and a global partnership for Afghanistan that brought remarkable consensus to post-conflict Afghanistan. He was recognized as the best Finance Minister of Asia by *Emerging Markets* in 2003, for his record of implementing effective reforms in difficult contexts.

On March 31st/April 1st 2004, he presented *Securing Afghanistan's Future*, a comprehensive developmental vision and a program of public investment to 65 Finance

and Foreign Ministers and representatives of all major regional and international organizations. At the heart of this approach was the concept of a "double compact" of rights and obligations between the citizens and the state on the one hand, and between the state and the international community on the other. This idea is being increasingly drawn upon in other developing countries.

He declined to join the Cabinet after the Presidential elections of 2004, and since January 2005 has served as Chancellor of Kabul University. He has pioneered the approach of "shared governance" at the University, embarking on a process of intensive consultation with the student body and the faculty to create common priorities, mutual rights and obligations and a process to transform the University into a first rate institution of learning.

In articulating a program of reform in Afghanistan, he drew on his ten years of experience at the World Bank. His extensive work in China, India and Russia has been the basis for his reflection on the role of these countries in the current wave of globalization. His work on strategy, policy, programs and projects has enabled him to articulate an integrated approach to global governance.

As a professor at Berkeley and Johns Hopkins Universities, he focused on all aspects of state-building ranging from the environment, to the role of religion in public life. He conducted intensive fieldwork in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and studied the formation of universities in the United States and Europe as well as the formation of madrassas in Pakistan, as a Fulbright Scholar. He was educated in Kabul, at the American University in Beirut, and took his PhD at Columbia University in international relations and anthropology. He grew up in Afghanistan, and taught at Kabul University in the 1970s.

During his time as a professor, he interacted intensively with the media. After September 11th, he was a frequent contributor to BBC, CNN and other televisions, and to the BBC and NPR radio networks. He has written for the Financial Times, the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times among other newspapers.

Recently, he has been advising the governments of Southern Sudan and Nepal on an approach to prioritization, leadership and decision-making that would a sustainable path to institution-building. He has also been called upon to advise on issues of globalization, mechanisms for making aid more effective, rule of law and democracy by a range of networks and organizations ranging from the European Parliament, the House of Commons and the American Bar Association to the African Development Bank, the General Assembly of the United Nations, with which he discussed the theme of peace-building and state-building, and a number of universities and think tanks.